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Twentieth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 1885 (2009) of 15 September 2009, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) until 30 September 2010, and requested me to report on progress made in achieving the core benchmarks set out in my reports of 8 August 2007 (S/2007/479) and 19 March 2008 (S/2008/183). The present report covers major developments in Liberia since my progress report of 10 August 2009 (S/2009/411), until 1 February.

II. Major developments

A. Political developments

2. The debate surrounding the recommendations contained in the draft report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was issued in June 2009, continued to play a major role in Liberian political dynamics as the country endeavoured to develop its road map towards reconciliation. In September 2009, before its agricultural recess, the legislature decided not to take action on the recommendations until its next session in January 2010. On 1 December 2009, the Commission issued the final report, with 10 of its 12 appendices completed. That report expands upon the recommendations for the "Palava Hut" mechanism: a traditional conflict resolution mechanism presided over by a committee of members of integrity in the community to be set up in every district, where perpetrators can publicly request forgiveness. The Commission recommends that an appearance before such a committee could lead to a reduction or waiver of an individual's public sanction. The Commission also recommends a significant expansion of powers of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights, including that it be given the power to prosecute human rights violations before a court of law.

3. The President, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, welcomed the final report and assured the public that a process was under way to formulate a strategy for implementation that would balance the need for national reconciliation, peace and justice. The public debate focused on whether the leaders of the warring factions and others the Commission had found to be responsible for atrocities should be prosecuted. There was also debate on whether the individuals the Commission had identified as having

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supported factions should be subject to public sanctions, including banning them from holding public office for a period of 30 years, as recommended by the Commission.

4. Members of the legislature have held consultations with their constituencies on the report, which have shown that Liberian society is deeply divided on the main issues, even within small districts and rural communities. With the release of the final report, political actors have become increasingly vocal, with some having called on the President to accept and fully implement the recommendations, and others, some of whom are recommended for prosecution by the Commission, publicly denouncing and rejecting them. In her annual message to the legislature, on 25 January 2010, the President proposed to amend the Independent National Commission on Human Rights Act in order to empower the Commission to work with the Ministry of Justice to identify those recommendations that can be implemented or enforced under the Constitution and laws of Liberia.

5. On 10 November 2009, a senatorial by-election was held in Montserrado County, followed by a run-off on 24 November 2009. Ten candidates (five sponsored by political parties and five independents), including three women, initially contested. Voter turnout was low in both rounds, but was comparable to turnout in the seven other by-elections held since 2005. No candidate secured an outright majority. Two candidates, representing the Congress for Democratic Change and the Unity Party (UP), arch-rivals since 2005, were in the run-off. The Congress for Democratic Change retained the Senate seat.

6. In view of the upcoming national elections in 2011, the by-election provided an opportunity to test the capacity of the National Electoral Commission to conduct nationwide elections. Montserrado County's 473,229 registered voters account for 35 per cent of the country's electorate. The first round exposed the Commission's weaknesses in planning, organization, management, administration and coordination with other institutions, such as the Liberian National Police. Logistics were inadequate and polls opened late, with poor dissemination of information. Many of these deficiencies were addressed in the run-off, which was acknowledged by political parties, civil society, the media and international partners. In the meantime, the National Electoral Commission has already begun consultations with international partners to review its operations and identify lessons learned.

7. It is worth noting that one of the individuals listed in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report as a leader of a warring faction and who is recommended for prosecution and public sanction stood as a candidate in the Montserrado by-election. Despite several complaints to the National Electoral Commission, the Commission ruled that the candidate was eligible to run for office.

8. In keeping with Security Council resolution 1885 (2009), UNMIL, the United Nations country team, the National Electoral Commission and other stakeholders developed a multisector electoral assistance project, including the provision of logistical support, coordination of international electoral assistance and facilitation of a climate conducive to peaceful elections. The project focuses on strengthening the capacity of the Commission, since Liberians will be fully in charge of the 2011 elections, with international assistance.

9. In September 2009, the legislature concluded the fourth session of its six-year tenure. A number of critical legislative instruments were adopted during the session.

However, election-related amendments to the Constitution, which would greatly facilitate the 2011 elections, have not yet been adopted. The window for their passage and the holding of a referendum, which cannot be held sooner than one year from the legislature's decision, is closing rapidly for them to become binding for the 2011 election. On 20 January 2010, at the beginning of the legislature's new session, the Senate finally concurred with the House and passed the Threshold bill, which defines the threshold for the delineation of electoral constituencies. The bill is now awaiting the President's signature.

10. The trial of the former President, Charles Taylor, ongoing in The Hague, continued to hold the attention of Liberians, many of whom are anxious to bring closure to this chapter of their history. The trial's continued delays could mean that the verdict will come in the midst of Liberia's critical electoral period.

B. Security situation

11. The overall security situation in the country remained generally stable, but fragile. Armed robbery, rape and mob violence were the most commonly reported security incidents. However, reports of armed robbery have steadily decreased, with reports in December 2009 at about half the number of reports in September 2009. This is attributed to increased visibility, due primarily to the efforts of the Liberian National Police, supported by UNMIL police, to increase patrolling in and around Monrovia. The high number of reported rape cases continues to be a serious concern, especially given that the majority of cases continue to involve victims under the age of 15.

12. The lack of public confidence in the justice system continued to fuel incidents of mob violence. On 16 January 2010, an election for officials of the Federation of Liberian Youth turned violent, leading to the arrest of seven members, and approximately 70 persons subsequently storming the police station to free them. An increasing number of traffic accidents involve motorcycles and ex-combatants who have become motorcycle taxi drivers, and who tend to be organized and easily resort to violence. On 3 December 2009, a Government-registered vehicle carrying a Deputy Minister was attacked and set ablaze in Ganta, Nimba County, by members of the local motorcycle union following a traffic accident in which a union member had been killed.

13. The situation in and around Liberia's rubber plantations continued to be of concern. Labour disputes, including over salary and severance payments, prompted demonstrations at the Guthrie and Cavalla plantations, with the conflict over control of rubber at Sinoe Plantation continuing to be a major security concern. On 1 November, the Chairman of the Public Procurement and Concession Commission was murdered, allegedly by disgruntled workers, near his residence at the Morris American Rubber Company in Margibi County, of which he was also the President and General Manager.

14. On 26 November 2009, six serviceable assault rifles and ammunition were discovered buried at Firestone Rubber Plantation in Margibi County, indicating the possible existence of arms caches in some locations. UNMIL is assisting in investigating the origin of the weapons.

15. Tensions between the Armed Forces of Liberia and other security agencies continued. Armed Forces of Liberia soldiers assaulted Liberian National Police officers in one incident in October, one in November and two in December 2009, for a total of eight confrontations since September 2008. Members of the Armed Forces of Liberia were also involved in aggravated assaults on citizens. For instance, two civilians were stabbed by soldiers in Monrovia on 2 and 3 October 2009.

C. Economic situation

16. The global financial crisis continued to affect Liberia's economy, particularly in the rubber sector, resulting in decreased exports, increased rural unemployment and delays in foreign investment. Growth in gross domestic product fell from 7.1 per cent in 2008, to a projected 4.6 per cent for 2009. The rate of inflation stood at 7.6 per cent at the end of 2009, increasing from 6.8 per cent in the first quarter of the year due to an increase in the price of fuel and other imported goods.

17. The budget for fiscal year 2009/10 was projected at $371.91 million, an increase of 24.8 per cent from $298 million in fiscal year 2008/09. However, in December 2009, the Ministry of Finance announced a revenue shortfall of $64 million, or 17.2 per cent. The shortfall is expected to affect current budgets for public works and social services, which had been significantly increased in the approved budget.

18. The Government adopted policies aimed at mitigating the impact of the economic downturn. The policies included reducing corporate and personal income tax rates by 10 per cent, eliminating taxes on imported rice and reducing trade tariffs in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region. To enhance local food production and create export opportunities, the Government created a fund at the Central Bank of Liberia to purchase home-grown rice. In addition, import duty and services taxes on public transport were reduced from 18 per cent to 2.5 per cent to increase the provision of public transport services.

19. The President held a Cabinet-level retreat in August 2009, following the Government's review of the first year of implementation of the poverty reduction strategy in all four pillars, namely, (1) peace and security; (2) economic revitalization; (3) governance and the rule of law; and (4) infrastructure and basic services. Cabinet members recommended that each pillar develop 90-day action plans to help accelerate deliverables that were past due and to ensure timely implementation. Overall, progress was made in the first 90-day cycle (August-November 2009), especially with respect to overdue outputs, although in many cases, low targets had been set and thus were easily met. With just one quarter of the poverty reduction strategy deliverables achieved, emphasis on short-term activities will need to be balanced with a longer-term focus on overall outcomes.

D. Regional situation

20. The situation along Liberia's borders remained calm, but concerns increased following the killing of civilians in Conakry on 28 September 2009 and the attempted assassination of the Guinean military leader on 3 December 2009. There have been reports of increased border activity and the recruitment of Liberian ex-combatants as mercenaries in Guinea. However, neither UNMIL nor Liberian

agencies have been able to confirm them, despite increased patrolling in recent months. UNMIL continues to monitor the border closely and is in constant contact with Liberian institutions. Furthermore, UNMIL participated in joint operations with Liberian, Guinean and Sierra Leonean security agencies, as well as with the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), along all of Liberia's borders.

21. Porous borders and the limited capacity of law enforcement agencies expose Liberia's vulnerability to drug trafficking, which continues to pose a threat to the stability of the subregion. However, the presence of UNMIL is a strong deterrent to the use of Liberia as a transit route. In support of the implementation of the ECOWAS action plan to combat illicit drug trafficking and organized crime, UNMIL and the Liberian National Police have each nominated a focal point to work with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, INTERPOL and the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA). In addition, as I had informed the Security Council earlier, and following consultations with police-contributing countries and the leadership of UNMIL and UNOCI, I intend to temporarily redeploy one police adviser from each mission to UNOWA, for an initial period of three months, to assist in implementing the above-mentioned ECOWAS action plan.

III. Implementation of the mandate of the Mission

A. Security sector reform

National security strategy and architecture

22. Security agencies have made some progress in meeting the deliverables set under the security pillar of the poverty reduction strategy. The new county security mechanism was officially launched in December 2009 to enhance security policy coordination at the county level. Each committee is to be chaired by a County Superintendent and is to report information and recommendations through the Minister of Internal Affairs. Its roll-out to the counties will be conducted over the next few months. Despite these advances, implementation of the national security strategy faces a number of gaps, the principal among them being the cornerstone legislation governing the new security architecture, the Liberia Security Reform and Intelligence bill, which has yet to be presented to the legislature. This impedes effective security and intelligence coordination and creates a major obstacle to the establishment of the overall security architecture.

Armed Forces of Liberia

23. The two battalions of the Armed Forces of Liberia completed the United States Army Training and Evaluation Programme in September and December 2009. Completion of the programme marks the conclusion of the initial training phase of the new army. Its next phase of development provides for intensive mentoring under the Liberia defence sector reform programme, supported by 61 United States serving military personnel, who arrived in Liberia in January 2010. UNMIL has initiated joint training with specialized units of the Armed Forces of Liberia, such as engineering, military police, and signal and headquarters staff personnel. Development of the coast guard has been initiated, with financial and training support from the United States. Boats and other equipment have been ordered, and

40 Armed Forces of Liberia personnel have been selected and trained. The President announced that the coast guard would be officially activated on Liberia Armed Forces Day, 11 February 2010.

24. On 1 January 2010, the Government of Liberia officially assumed responsibilities for the development of the new army. The United States also handed over Armed Forces of Liberia equipment to the Ministry of Defence. However, weapons and ammunition continue to be under United States control. While a draft national defence strategy exists, it has not yet been officially endorsed, nor has the military doctrine been incorporated into follow-up integrated training programmes. In view of past delays in the training and evaluation of the two battalions, it is assessed that the Armed Forces of Liberia will not be independently operational before 2012, given that the Force's officer corps needs significant additional experience before it is able to take command.

Liberian National Police

25. The Liberian National Police continued to make progress towards becoming operationally independent, but continues to face a number of serious challenges. It has finalized its policy on professional standards, which should improve the quality of investigations into police misconduct. The Liberian National Police station standard operating procedures are now being introduced nationwide.

26. The Liberian National Police Emergency Response Unit, with a current strength of 287, including three female officers, continued to improve in performance and professionalism. The Unit was deployed outside Monrovia to respond to unrest on a number of occasions, including at Bong Mines and at both the Liberia Agricultural Company and Sinoe rubber plantations. Their presence served as a deterrent and added a tactical element to the Liberian National Police presence at the local level. An additional 47 officers, including one woman, are presently undergoing training and are expected to graduate in March 2010. The Unit's administrative headquarters in Monrovia is now operational. Although the original target strength of the Unit was 500 officers, it has been assessed that, at this stage in the Unit's development, its present strength is sufficient to effectively respond to tactical interventions and critical incidents and further increases will be suspended after the graduation of the next class. While the Unit is considered to have sufficient strength to meet current demands, budgetary constraints limit the level of sustained maintenance essential for long-term sustainability, and poor road conditions mean that the Unit is dependent on UNMIL air assets to deploy quickly, particularly during the rainy season.

27. The Liberian National Police has decided to prioritize the expansion of the Police Support Unit in order to offer flexible armed support to normal Liberian National Police operations, while allowing the Emergency Response Unit to focus on its mandated role to address critical incidents. It is assessed that the optimal strength of the PSU is 600 officers, with company-level strength to be deployed to several regions, including the remote counties in which UNMIL formed police units are currently deployed. Achievement of an operationally effective Police Support Unit strength of 600, however, will require substantial additional donor support for training, equipment and infrastructure. The existing Police Support Unit strength stands at about 200 officers, who are in need of refresher training and re-equipping. Although some training is being planned, including for 150 officers in the area of disorder control, the gaps are still wide.

28. The Liberian National Police have established an operational planning team that will work with UNMIL police and the National Electoral Commission to prepare for the 2011 elections. Following the November 2009 Montserrado County senatorial by-election, the Liberian National Police assessed their performance in order to incorporate lessons learned into its operational planning for the 2011 elections.

29. Following the completion of the Liberian National Police strategic plan and the identification of its 18 priority projects, the Minister of Justice, accompanied by the Head of the Liberian National Police, presented the plan at the Liberia Justice and Security Partners' Forum in New York in September 2009. Some donors have expressed interest in contributing support, either through bilateral arrangements or through the newly established Justice and Security Trust Fund, administered by the United Nations Development Programme. However, little support has materialized thus far. The pace of its development needs to be accelerated if the Liberian National Police is to meet the demands of the 2011 elections, including the need for massive support to rebuild the Police Support Unit, for the establishment of an effective radio communications network and for the provision of vehicles.

30. The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization finalized its five-year strategic development plan and will soon introduce an agency standard operating procedure. The Bureau has also identified priority projects for funding through the Justice and Security Trust Fund. With donor assistance, the Bureau has begun basic training of its officers through the Ghana Immigration Service, where 200 officers are to be trained over a two-year period. The first group graduated in January 2010.

B. Strengthening judicial, legal and corrections institutions

31. Challenges persist across the legal, judicial and corrections sectors. Deficiencies in human capacity, infrastructure and equipment continue to be the greatest obstacles to a functional rule of law sector. Both the Ministry of Justice and the judiciary engaged in strategic planning in 2008 and 2009, but implementation has been slow. Ongoing internal problems among the leaders of the judiciary have slowed the implementation of the judiciary's strategic plan. Implementation of the Ministry of Justice strategic plan is similarly slow. The Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation finalized its individual strategic plan in August 2009, outlining outstanding needs in the areas of infrastructure, personnel, and legislative reform. The plan's priorities were presented at the Liberia Justice and Security Partners' Forum in New York in September 2009.

32. The Judicial Training Institute completed a three-year strategic plan, whose goals include the establishment of comprehensive and systematic training for judicial officers and the enhancement of the scholarship programme at the Law School. The Institute also completed its training curriculum and anticipates that its first 12-month professional magistrates training programme will commence in March 2010. Measures have been taken to strengthen accountability within the judiciary, with oversight responsibilities divided among Supreme Court justices. In addition, consultations at the county level have been completed on how best to harmonize Liberia's non-formal and formal legal systems, the results of which will feed into a national conference on traditional justice later in the year to assist the larger national policymaking process.

33. The backlog of cases in the criminal justice system and the high rate of pretrial detention continue to limit access to justice and undermine public confidence, while placing a strain on the country's prisons. An improvement has been noted in communication between the judiciary and the Ministry of Justice on these issues and a nationwide docket and case review process, supported by UNMIL, has been initiated. Logistical and capacity-building support has also been provided to the Public Defence Office under a Peacebuilding Fund project launched in October 2009, deploying public defenders to eight counties. The special court dedicated to sexual and gender-based violence crimes has tried a total of three cases since October 2009. Training has been conducted for the police and prosecution teams to improve investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence cases, to which the United Nations has provided support through a Government/United Nations joint programme on sexual and gender-based violence.

34. Although security at corrections facilities remains a major concern, the number of escapes dropped during this period. Six of the total 13 escape incidents occurred at two facilities, one of them at Saniquellie, Nimba County, where there have been recurrent security problems. Funding was secured from the Peacebuilding Fund to address security issues and to construct a new facility at Saniquellie, which commenced in November 2009. The Peacebuilding Fund is also supporting the training of 50 additional corrections officers, who will be deployed by mid-2010. These are the first new corrections staff to be trained since 2007. Overcrowding remains a concern at Monrovia Central Prison, but the mobile court project keeps the prison population relatively stable. Despite improvements, the corrections sector continues to face major challenges related to funding, infrastructure and staffing. The sector has also struggled to ensure adequate nutrition in the prisons since August 2009, when World Food Programme support ended.

C. Human rights

35. With the assistance and support of international partners, the Government has made some advances towards improving the human rights situation in Liberia. Under the Steering Committee for the national human rights action plan, subcommittees have been established to develop the action plan, to promote human rights awareness and to collect human rights-related data. Initial steps have also been made to establish an independent national commission on human rights with the nomination of seven commissioners, who have not yet been confirmed by the Senate.

36. Despite these advances, a number of serious human rights concerns persist. There is a worrying trend of reports of assaults committed by police and corrections officers against inmates and detainees. UNMIL brings reports of misconduct to the attention of the Liberian National Police Non-Compliance Unit, the Liberian National Police Professional Standards Board and the Bureau of Corrections. However, internal investigative processes are usually slow and authorities are often reluctant to share information. Inadequate protection of children's rights also remains a major challenge. Minors who come into conflict with the law are dealt with inappropriately due to an ineffective juvenile justice system. However, a joint Government/United Nations workplan has been elaborated towards the development of an effective juvenile justice system.

D. Consolidation of State authority throughout the country

37. Government efforts to consolidate State authority throughout the country continued, although the challenges of limited human capacity and inadequate infrastructure persisted. All 15 county administration buildings have now been reconstructed or rehabilitated. The Cabinet approved the decentralization and local governance policy in November 2009. However, the devolution of political, fiscal and administrative powers is not expected soon since a constitutional amendment and a national referendum are required before the policy can be implemented. The absence of various key line ministries at the county level remains a cause for concern, especially for the delivery of essential services. Recent initiatives to conduct payroll audits in the counties and to introduce a pilot salary disbursement system through local commercial banking are expected to encourage county-based officials to spend more time at their posts.

38. The county development steering committees, established to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the poverty reduction strategy and county development agendas, met regularly, although many counties experienced attendance problems from line ministries. The committees, which include civil society, United Nations agencies and other development partners, are expected to enhance national ownership of recovery and development efforts.

39. Infrastructure remains a major challenge since heavy rains easily wash away repairs and dirt roads, and rehabilitation work can be conducted only during the six months of the dry season. Given the complexity of road rehabilitation projects, the Government's limited financial resources and the low local implementation capacity, it is difficult to organize the necessary components in advance and to make significant headway during the short implementation period. The agreement signed by the Government and the World Bank for $2.8 million to improve 79 kilometres of the Pleebo-Barclayville road, linking Maryland and Grand Kru counties, has not yet been implemented.

E. Management of natural resources

40. Both the Kimberley Process review mission report, completed in October 2009, and the report of the Panel of Experts on Liberia, presented in December 2009, note that implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme has not progressed sufficiently. Weaknesses in the Government Diamond Office's control of diamond mining and trade, as well as in its control over mining areas, were raised as particular concerns. Following receipt of these reports, the Presidential Task Force on Diamonds decided to intensify its work and to examine how the recommendations from the two bodies could be implemented. The Task Force is also expected to reconstitute itself as a precious minerals oversight committee aimed at providing a platform for dialogue and management oversight within the precious minerals sector. The committee will monitor the implementation and application of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in Liberia and oversee procedures for the export of gold. Its membership will be expanded to include all relevant ministries, civil society, industry and international partners.

41. In the forestry sector, the legislature ratified four additional forest management contracts, bringing to seven the total number of allocated large-scale contracts,

covering approximately 1 million hectares. However, the implementation of the contracts has been slow, causing the Government to fall short of its annual revenue and job projections for the sector. The Community Rights Law with respect to forest lands, which is intended to empower communities to engage in the sustainable management and use of forest resources, was finally passed by the legislature. The country also made progress in the negotiations with the European Commission for the establishment of a voluntary partnership agreement that will permit the export of Liberian timber to Europe. In January 2010, the first consignment of timber — since the passage of the New Forestry Reform Law in 2006 and the lifting of sanctions — was shipped out of Liberia to Hong Kong, China.

42. Rubber production continues to be a major source of jobs and revenue for Liberia. The situation at the plantations improved significantly during the period, with long-standing issues at the Guthrie and Sinoe plantations being addressed. After three and a half years of interim management, Guthrie Plantation was officially handed over to a private company in January 2010. The concession agreement represents a massive investment across four counties and has been welcomed by communities, which have high hopes for jobs and revenue. Also, an interim management agreement was signed at Sinoe Plantation in December 2010, where the informal exploitation of rubber had put local communities and the county administration at odds. This will formalize operations until transparent bidding can be conducted once the dispute over the plantation's legal ownership has been resolved. Currently, none of Liberia's plantations is under the control of ex-combatants or other informal groups, marking a major turning point for the development of the sector.

F. Governance

43. In November 2009, the Government adopted several strategies and policies to ensure effective implementation of the poverty reduction strategy. Furthermore, the Cabinet endorsed the decentralization and local governance policy presented by the Governance Commission.

44. In September 2009, the civil service reform process was strengthened by the launch of eight internal reform committees to plan and oversee institutional reforms. Pay and grade reforms and the use of biometric identity cards for all civil servants are some of the measures approved to rightsize the civil service and address persistent payroll inaccuracies.

45. The establishment of the Land Commission in July 2009, and the President's subsequent appointment of its commissioners, is an important step towards addressing a major source of conflict. The Commission is mandated to propose, advocate and coordinate land reform policies, laws and programmes but it does not have adjudicatory or implementation powers. While other reforms continued, the Constitutional Review Task Force and the Law Reform Commission, established in 2009, have yet to be constituted and made operational.

46. The legislature enacted legislation on sound fiscal management for Liberia's economic recovery. The President signed the Public Financial Management Act of 2009 in August 2009, marking a significant step towards the completion point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. With the end of the Governance and Economic Management Assistance Programme, attention is now focused on post-Programme arrangements and a strategy to ensure adherence to economic

governance programmes after the completion point is reached in mid-2010. In January 2010, in consultation with Government representatives, the technical team of the Programme submitted a concept paper to the President, in which it proposed a model for overall governance and institutional capacity development.

G. Anti-corruption efforts

47. Although anti-corruption efforts have been high on the political agenda, there are continuing challenges in the fight against corruption, especially the implementation of audit recommendations. The Code of Conduct for Public Officials bill, which is necessary to prosecute cases of financial impropriety on the part of Government officials, remains pending in the legislature after submission by the President in 2007. Many officials, especially legislators, did not comply with the deadline to disclose their personal assets. In late December 2009, the President issued an executive order enacting the Whistleblower Act, which will be submitted to the legislature at its new session.

48. In November 2009, the General Audit Commission completed its audit field work and is finalizing draft reports on the Ministries of Education, Finance, Health, Lands, Mines and Energy, and Public Works for fiscal year 2007/08. The Commission also completed fieldwork for the special forensic audit of county administration/development projects, uncovering alleged improprieties. However, challenges in the oversight of audits persist and none of the Commission's findings has yet led to prosecution.

49. The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission investigated four high-profile corruption cases, including one that was recommended to the Ministry of Justice for prosecution. A contract of the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company was found to be in violation of the Public Procurement and Concessions Act. The President dismissed the company's director as a result. Similarly, all commissioners of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority were dismissed for alleged financial irregularities. The Minister for Information resigned in January 2010, once it was reported that the General Auditing Commission had completed its audit, concluding that the Minister had defrauded the Government of approximately $360,000, and recommended him for criminal prosecution.

50. The Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative finalized the draft of its second reconciliation report in January 2010, and began preparations for its publication. The draft was delayed due to the late submission of reports on company payments and audited receipts by the respective ministries and agencies. Meanwhile, various payment and receipt discrepancies reflected in the first reconciliation report of February 2009 have yet to be fully investigated and resolved.

H. Activities of the Peacebuilding Fund

51. During the reporting period, progress was made on the 24 projects financed by the Peacebuilding Fund to work towards national reconciliation and conflict management, towards promoting peace and resolving conflict, and towards strengthening State capacity for peace consolidation. A small grants programme to fund local initiatives and civil society was finalized and over 100 proposals are now under consideration for Steering Committee endorsement. Emergency support from

the Peacebuilding Fund was also approved in August 2009 to enhance security in two prisons. A midterm evaluation of all projects is scheduled for February 2010, while a final independent evaluation, scheduled for the second half of 2010, will assess broader strategic programme-wide impact.

I. Humanitarian situation

52. The withdrawal of humanitarian organizations and the subsequent transfer of responsibilities to the Government, with United Nations support, require diligent monitoring of lingering challenges and needs. Over 64,000 Liberian refugees remain in countries of asylum, while a total of 169,072 have returned to Liberia since 2004.

J. Integration and transition planning

53. Improved integration and coherence between the Mission and the United Nations country team continued to be a priority during the reporting period. Mechanisms such as the Strategic Planning Group, chaired by my Special Representative and attended by heads of UNMIL sections and United Nations agencies, and the 2008-2012 United Nations Development Assistance Framework, have served as vehicles to advance integrated United Nations efforts. Integrated communications, operations and programming groups met regularly, in addition to the five United Nations Development Assistance Framework outcome working groups (peace and security, economic revitalization, governance and rule of law, infrastructure and basic services, and HIV/AIDS). Subsequent to Security Council resolution 1885,(2009), the United Nations Development Assistance Framework was reviewed to include the UNMIL consolidation, drawdown and withdrawal benchmarks, specifically the core benchmarks related to security, the consolidation of State authority and elections.

54. The Integrated Transition and Design Team, a working group on transition planning, which is comprised of the United Nations country team and UNMIL personnel, was created to develop a comprehensive plan for future United Nations actions in Liberia, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1885 (2009). It will focus on both substantive and operational elements, such as cataloguing resources and devising handover strategies from UNMIL to national entities or United Nations agencies. A senior management retreat for UNMIL and the United Nations country team was held on 26 and 27 January to agree on a plan to ensure an effective transition during the UNMIL drawdown and to increase coherence for "delivering as one". The Government of Liberia is expected to propose that Liberia become a "one United Nations" country.

IV. Cross-cutting issues within the Mission

A. Public information

55. The Mission worked closely with the Government and non-governmental partners to help implement campaigns against sexual and gender-based violence and to support the poverty reduction strategy "Lift Liberia" campaign. Support was also provided to the Liberian National Police to reflect its improved crime-fighting

ability, to improve its public image and to strengthen public awareness about the rule of law. UNMIL and United Nations agencies continued to promote the "one United Nations" concept on websites and UNMIL Radio, emphasizing that the United Nations delivers "as one" to Liberians. UNMIL Radio remains the only radio station in Liberia with countrywide coverage.

B. HIV/AIDS

56. HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention training and sensitization for newly deployed UNMIL peacekeepers continued. In addition, voluntary confidential HIV testing services, male and female condoms, counselling and post-exposure prophylaxis kits were made available.

C. Gender

57. The Government continued its efforts to strengthen gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment mechanisms. The Mission supported the Government to finalize the national gender policy, which provides broad guidelines to address gender inequality and discrimination. UNMIL analysed laws covering eight critical areas for women and provided advice on how the Government could institutionalize gender equity by considering Liberia's obligations under national, regional and international laws and treaties. Although these initiatives are a step forward, Government capacity and accountability continue to represent major challenges.

58. The Mission continued to promote gender mainstreaming in Mission mandate implementation through training programmes, focus group discussions, the review of section workplans and assessments of UNMIL policies and practices.

D. Personnel conduct and discipline

59. The Mission maintained its efforts to ensure strict compliance of my zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse by focusing primarily on preventive measures, such as training, awareness-raising and regular off-limits advisories. Some 2,100 United Nations personnel have gone through induction and refresher sessions on general conduct and discipline, including in terms of sexual exploitation and abuse, with particular emphasis on managerial and/or command responsibility for the identification, prevention and response to serious misconduct. The Mission also conducted a training session for focal points on sexual exploitation and abuse for all personnel categories. Capacity-building initiatives were undertaken to increase outreach to local communities living near United Nations facilities in order to increase the effectiveness of community-based mechanisms for reporting violations.

60. Eight cases of serious misconduct were reported to the Mission, including six allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse. The overall number of reported minor misconduct cases involving UNMIL staff fell from 122 in the previous reporting period to 104. However, certain types of violations such as petty theft, in particular theft of fuel and vehicle parts, remained persistent.

E. Security and safety of United Nations personnel

61. Armed robbery, mob violence, traffic accidents and disease are among the most prevalent security and safety threats to United Nations personnel and property. Overall weapons-related robbery incidents decreased in the reporting period. However, there were 17 incidents targeting United Nations personnel and 2 targeting international non-governmental organizations staff. In addition, one national employee of an international non-governmental organization was abducted and held for 18 hours. She was released in good condition. No United Nations fatalities related to criminal targeting were reported.

62. Between September 2009 and January 2010, three national staff members, six UNMIL soldiers, one UNMIL police officer and one international civilian staff member died from causes such as illness and drowning.

V. Mission deployment

Military component

63. As at 1 February 2010, the military strength of UNMIL stood at 9,360 personnel, including 9,150 troops, 126 military observers and 84 staff officers. There are 250 women in the force.

64. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1885 (2009), the Mission is currently conducting the third stage of its drawdown. One battalion from Ethiopia and three attack helicopters from Ukraine will be repatriated by February 2010, and a battalion from Bangladesh and 72 armoured personnel carriers are to be repatriated by the end of May 2010. Other units will also reduce their personnel during their routine rotations in order to comply with the full reduction of 2,029 military personnel by 31 May 2010.

65. Upon completion of the third stage of the UNMIL drawdown, the Mission will have an authorized military strength of 7,952 personnel in Liberia. The UNMIL force will remain deployed in two sectors, with three infantry battalions in each. In addition, the battalion-sized quick reaction force will be based in Monrovia and at two forward operating bases adjacent to main communication routes to both the Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire borders. Pursuant to paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 1885 (2009), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is in the process of reviewing the rules of engagement and the concept of operations of UNMIL in order to bring them in line with the provisions of the resolution. In addition, as reported in my letter dated 28 December 2009 to the President of the Security Council (S/2009/679), the 250-strong military guard force deployed at the Special Court for Sierra Leone will be reduced to 150 personnel by the end of February 2010.

Police component

66. As at 1 February 2010, the UNMIL police strength stood at 1,351 personnel out of an authorized ceiling of 1,375, including 197 women. The current strength on the ground includes 462 police advisers, 14 immigration advisers, 31 correction officers and 844 officers in seven formed police units. Three formed police units are

deployed in Monrovia; one in Buchanan; one in Zwedru; one in Gbargna; and one in Voinjama.

67. UNMIL police is in the process of reviewing its personnel deployment to better allocate resources and to provide more efficient advisory assistance and operational support to the Liberian National Police towards implementation of its strategic plan. However, UNMIL still requires expert police personnel in a number of specific areas to enable it to do this effectively.

VI. Observations

68. Although Liberia continues to make progress towards consolidating peace and stability, significant challenges remain in the development of the country's security and rule of law institutions on which the UNMIL exit strategy is hinged. In addition to ensuring that the Liberian National Police are independently operational, it is important that Liberia redouble its efforts in the area of rule of law. In this regard, it is essential that the governance and rule of law pillar continue to make progress towards critical deliverables and that the Ministry of Justice and the judiciary continue to strengthen the criminal justice system. This should include addressing cross-cutting areas, such as the large percentage of inmates in pretrial detention, which not only presents major challenges for the prison system but also contributes to the poor public perception of the justice system. Initiatives, such as the project to deploy a mobile court at Monrovia Central Prison, have proved to be successful, but are only a partial remedy and should be gradually extended countrywide. In addition, the launch of a fully functioning judicial training institute would help provide a solid foundation for long-term capacity-building in the justice sector.

69. I urge the Government to also take steps to adopt legislation to institutionalize the national security architecture. Furthermore, ensuring successful security sector reform in Liberia will require sustained donor support for the Liberian National Police and other security agencies. I note that donor interest was significant in the wake of the Justice and Security Partners' Forum held in New York in September 2009, but little concrete assistance has so far materialized. I, therefore, urge donor countries to increase their support for the Liberian National Police, in particular aiming at establishing an efficient communication network and car fleet maintenance system; increasing mobility and promoting facilities construction; enhancing forensic service capacity; and improving the staff training system. There is also a need for officers with specialist skills who can provide technical assistance in key operational areas, including women and child protection, crime investigation and criminal intelligence. Also important are such areas as finance, human resources and strategic development. The justice sector will require significant donor support for the Judicial Training Institute and institutions of legal education and the renovation of court infrastructure, in particular outside of Monrovia. For the corrections system, the building of a new Monrovia Central Prison to replace the existing overcrowded and dilapidated structure has been identified as a priority that needs donor assistance.

70. The assumption of responsibility by the Government for the further development of the Armed Forces of Liberia is a major step towards the progressive assumption of responsibilities for security by national authorities. The new army is expected to scale up joint training with UNMIL in the coming year. Sustaining the

new Armed Forces of Liberia will require extensive planning and the long-term commitment of international partners. The Government needs to further define the Armed Forces of Liberia mission and deployment, and to continue to train and mentor its officer corps. At the same time, incidents involving insubordination of Armed Forces of Liberia personnel are of concern, and greater effort needs to be made to ensure that inappropriate behaviour, reminiscent of past abuses by security personnel, is addressed. This would require an effective management and regulatory framework within the Armed Forces of Liberia, which would be rigorously, transparently and fairly enforced at all levels. It would further require more effective management of the Armed Forces of Liberia by the Ministry of Defence, in addition to enhanced civilian oversight of the armed forces.

71. With the release of the final edited version of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, the time has come for Liberia to define the road it will take towards reconciliation. The national debate on the way forward has been positive, and consultations conducted by members of the legislature on the report and its recommendations are welcome. I urge continued constructive dialogue within Liberian society on the road ahead regarding the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I also encourage Liberians to recognize the importance of addressing the root causes of the conflict through the effective functioning of other institutional reform mechanisms, such as the Land Commission and the Law Reform Commission.

72. It is important that the Senate take action on the nominees to the Independent National Commission on Human Rights as soon as possible. The Commission will be the key to a publicly accessible human rights institution and will play a significant role in supporting and enabling the Government of Liberia to fulfil its human rights obligations. It will also provide institutional follow-up to the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations.

73. The August 2009 Cabinet retreat reinvigorated the sense of national ownership of the poverty reduction strategy across ministries and agencies. The issuance of 90-day planning cycles helped to ensure significant progress on overdue deliverables. Similarly, the pillar review, the allocation of individual deliverables into achievable sequenced activities, and the assignment of responsibilities to specific Government entities contributed towards progress. However, the Government must not lose sight of the cumulative goals to be reached by the end of the poverty reduction strategy in 2011 by focusing solely on short-term actions. Revenue shortfalls have affected all of the Government's poverty reduction strategy pillars, putting its development and reform agenda under strain. It is vital that international financial assistance continue to ensure that the Government remain on track to reach the goals outlined in the poverty reduction strategy.

74. National electoral legislation needs to be addressed in the new legislative term. The passage of the Threshold bill by both Houses marks an important first step, although several constitutional amendments still need to be addressed. The November Senate by-election in Montserrado County was a good test for the National Electoral Commission to demonstrate its ability to manage a national election, while revealing areas where improvements were needed. It is commendable that the National Electoral Commission is addressing its shortcomings. Now that internal reviews of the by-election and its runoff have been conducted with key stakeholders, the international community will need to urgently lend support to strengthening

capacity of the Commission. The United Nations will also utilize its good offices, as required, to facilitate dialogue among political actors in the coming months.

75. More concerted action is required to tackle corruption in Liberia. Progress has been made to establish commissions and enact policies, but the implementation of audit report recommendations and follow-up on evidence uncovered in other investigations must be effectively pursued, including through prosecution, when required. The public's perception of rampant corruption among elected and appointed officials not only affects their standing among constituents and the wider public, but more importantly, undermines confidence in the Government's commitment to good governance and the rule of law.

76. The situation in the Mano River region continues to be fragile. Instability could spread across borders to destabilize the fragile subregion and, combined with the likely humanitarian consequences of a large population movement, could impede much of Liberia's peacebuilding and development efforts. Furthermore, the potential for increased illegal cross-border activities, including drug trafficking, is worrying. As UNMIL draws down, the Government will need to devise measures, in cooperation with neighbouring countries, to address and deter illicit activities across borders.

77. The Mission has continued to closely monitor the progress towards accomplishing its consolidation, drawdown and withdrawal benchmarks, in particular the core benchmarks related to preparations for the 2011 elections and capacity-building in Liberia's security sector. These benchmarks are reflected in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which serves as the integrated strategic framework of the United Nations for Liberia. Work to further refine the coherence of United Nations activities in Liberia will be crucial during the development of transition plans and exit strategies on which UNMIL has commenced consultations with the Government. Ensuring the sustained impact of the United Nations throughout the drawdown phase will be essential.

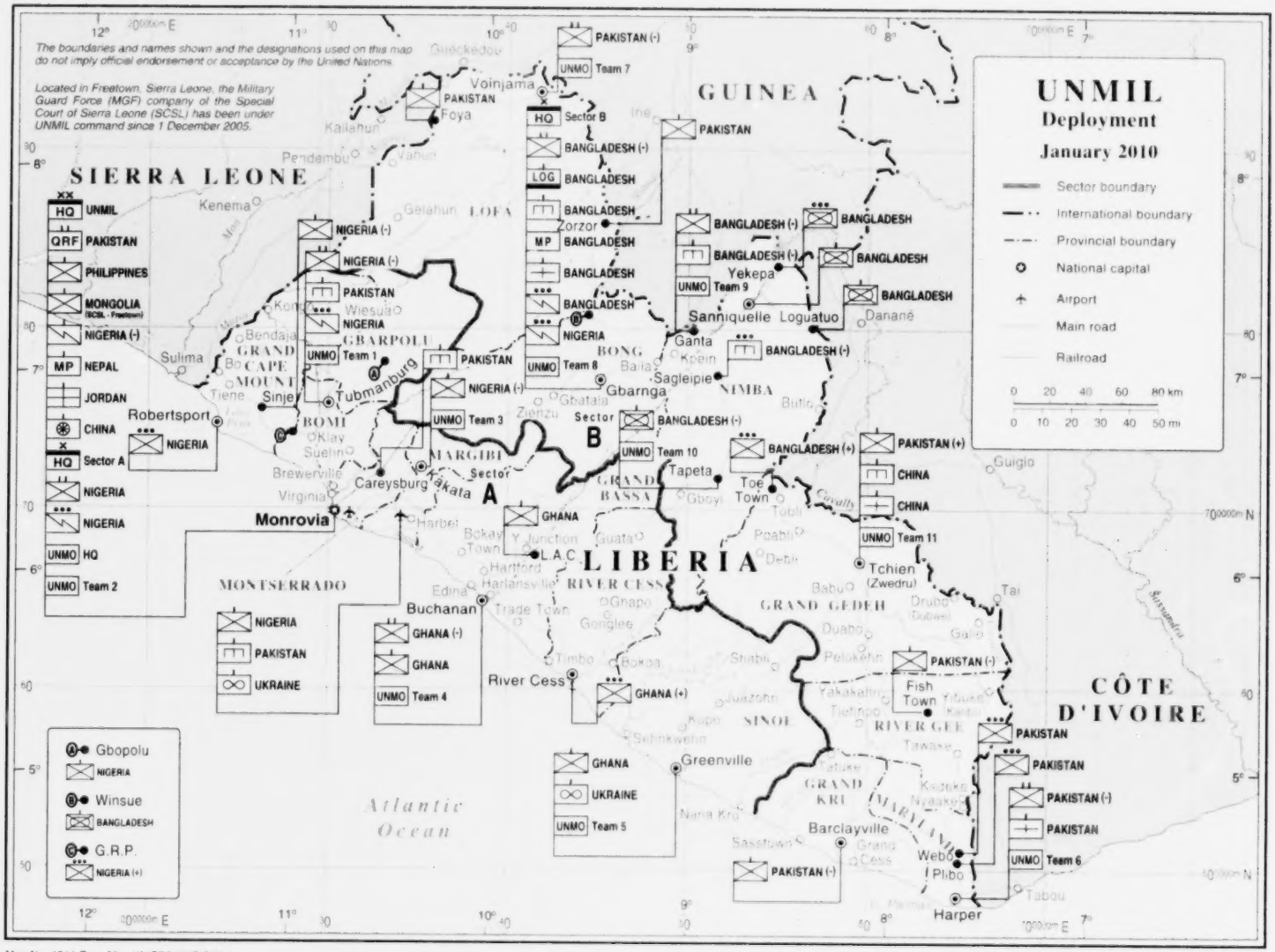
78. In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to my Special Representative for Liberia, Ellen Margrethe Løj, and UNMIL civilian and uniformed personnel for their dedication in supporting peace consolidation efforts in Liberia. I especially am grateful to the police- and troop-contributing countries, ECOWAS, the African Union, the International Contact Group on Liberia, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, multilateral and bilateral donors, and international and local non-governmental organizations, for their contributions and commitment to the peace consolidation process in Liberia.

Annex

United Nations Mission in Liberia: military and police strength (as at 1 February 2010)

Country	*Military component*					
	Military observers	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	*Total*	*Formed police units*	*Civilian police*
Argentina	0	0	0	0	0	9
Bangladesh	13	7	2 327	2 347	0	19
Benin	2	1	0	3	0	0
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	2	0	0	2	0	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	0	0	0	0	13
Brazil	2	2	0	4	0	0
Bulgaria	2	0	0	2	0	0
China	2	6	558	566	0	14
Croatia	0	3	0	3	0	0
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	5
Denmark	2	1	0	3	0	0
Ecuador	2	1	0	3	0	0
Egypt	7	0	0	7	0	5
El Salvador	2	0	0	2	0	6
Ethiopia	7	4	147	158	0	0
Fiji	0	0	0	0	0	27
Finland	0	2	0	2	0	0
France	0	1	0	1	0	0
Gambia	2	0	0	2	0	20
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	5
Ghana	8	7	700	715	0	30
Iceland	0	0	0	0	0	2
India	0	0	0	0	244	247
Indonesia	1	0	0	1	0	0
Jamaica	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jordan	4	5	115	124	240	256
Kenya	0	0	0	0	0	21
Kyrgyzstan	2	0	0	2	0	1
Malawi	0	0	0	0	0	2
Malaysia	6	0	0	6	0	0
Mali	1	0	0	1	0	0
Mongolia	0	0	250	250	0	0
Montenegro	2	0	0	2	0	0
Namibia	1	3	0	4	0	6

Country	Military component				Formed police units	Civilian police
	Military observers	Staff officers	Troops	Total		
Nepal	2	3	15	20	240	259
Niger	2	0	0	2	0	0
Nigeria	12	12	1 558	1 582	120	134
Norway	0	0	0	0	0	9
Pakistan	7	10	3 068	3 085	0	27
Paraguay	2	1	0	3	0	0
Peru	2	2	0	4	0	0
Philippines	2	2	135	139	0	26
Poland	2	0	0	2	0	3
Republic of Korea	1	1	0	2	0	0
Republic of Moldova	2	0	0	2	0	0
Romania	2	0	0	2	0	0
Russian Federation	2	0	0	2	0	15
Rwanda	0	0	0	0	0	5
Senegal	1	2	0	3	0	0
Serbia	4	0	0	4	0	6
Sri Lanka	0	0	0	0	0	11
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	15
Togo	2	1	0	3	0	0
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	17
Uganda	0	0	0	0	0	17
Ukraine	2	2	277	281	0	19
United States of America	4	5	0	9	0	10
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	0	3
Yemen	0	0	0	0	0	9
Zambia	3	0	0	3	0	16
Zimbabwe	2	0	0	2	0	30
Total	**126**	**84**	**9 150**	**9 360**	**844**	**1 320**



Map No. 4211 Rev. 22 UNITED NATIONS
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Security Council

Distr.: General
18 February 2010

Original: English

Letter dated 17 February 2010 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

Annexed hereto is the work programme for the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2010 (see annex).

The activities of the Committee will proceed pursuant to the provisions of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1535 (2004), 1566 (2004), 1624 (2005) and 1805 (2008).

The Committee will continue to work with Member States on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), guided by the principles of cooperation, transparency, even-handedness and consistency in approach. The Committee will remain focused on monitoring and promoting the implementation by Member States of resolution 1373 (2001) and on taking practical measures to enhance the counter-terrorism capacity of States, including measures aimed at facilitating technical assistance. Furthermore, the Committee will maintain dialogue with States on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005), and it will continue to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee welcomes the support it has received from Member States, the United Nations Secretariat and international, regional and subregional organizations and appreciates the assistance of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ertuğul **Apakan**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

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Annex

Work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2010

I. Introduction

1. The Counter-Terrorism Committee is required to monitor and promote the implementation by Member States of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), in accordance with the provisions of the resolution. The Committee is further directed to include in its dialogue with Member States their efforts to implement Security Council resolution 1624 (2005).

2. Security Council resolution 1805 (2008), the review report of the Committee (S/2006/989), the statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2006/56) and the report of the Committee (S/2009/289) constitute the guidance for the work of the Committee and its Executive Directorate.

II. Work programme

3. The Committee will develop a more strategic and transparent approach to its work and seek to raise the visibility of its work within the wider United Nations and counter-terrorism community. In doing so, the Committee, in close consultation with the Executive Directorate and the Secretariat, will streamline its working methods, as appropriate, to allow it to devote more time to achieving the following priority objectives:

A. Monitoring and promoting the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001)

4. The Committee and its Executive Directorate will collaborate actively with Member States to facilitate implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

5. The Committee will continue to consider the outstanding preliminary implementation assessments, in accordance with the revised procedures of the Committee for the stocktaking exercise of progress made by Member States in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). It will then send the preliminary implementation assessments and the recommendations to the Member States concerned, for the appropriate action.

6. The Committee will continue conducting the stocktaking exercise on the basis of the updated preliminary implementation assessments.

7. The Committee will continue discussions on thematic issues, proposed by the Chairman, on the basis of the recommendations made by the members of the Committee, the Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and will elaborate possible additional practical proposals aimed at facilitating the implementation of the priority recommendations for the Committee's future action.

8. The Committee will consider the added value of the global survey of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and ways of making it a more effective tool; it will also consider whether to ask the Executive Directorate for a revised survey in 2010.

9. In close cooperation with the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1540 (2004) and in accordance with its mandate, the Committee will pay special attention to States for which information on implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) is lacking, and discuss how best to address the issue and how to enhance the dialogue with these Member States.

10. The Committee will also continue to consider additional ways of addressing the cases of States that do not meet the requirements of resolution 1373 (2001), with a view to increasing their cooperation and dialogue with the Committee.

11. The Committee will continue to follow the status of preparation of visits to be undertaken in the period from January 2010 to June 2010. The Committee will also take steps to ensure that visits conducted to States with their consent have the effect of enhancing their implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), assess the results of such visits, and consider the appropriate follow-up action.

12. The Committee will, on the basis of concrete recommendations by the Executive Directorate on the modalities and format, consider organizing the following two special meetings for the purpose of furthering the implementation of the 2009 global survey of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001):

(a) A special meeting of the Committee with international, regional and subregional organizations;

(b) A special meeting open to the wider membership and regional organizations to review global efforts to implement resolution 1373 (2001).

13. The Committee will consider the implementation of the recommendations contained in the interim review of the work of the Executive Directorate.

14. In order to enhance transparency, the Chairman of the Committee will hold periodic informal briefings for Member States, as appropriate, on the work of the Committee. In addition, the Chairman will request the Executive Directorate, in close cooperation with relevant members of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to hold periodic briefings for Member States on thematic aspects of resolution 1373 (2001).

15. The Committee will consider, on the basis of concrete recommendations by the Executive Directorate, the modalities and format for organizing a seminar that would bring together Member State practitioners in an area relevant to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

16. The Committee continues to call for the closest cooperation among the expert groups of the three Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), including, as appropriate, on information-sharing and visits, and looks forward to receiving information from the Executive Directorate on the implementation of common strategies.

B. Facilitating technical assistance to States

17. The Committee will continue to pay close attention to facilitating technical assistance. In this context, the Committee will continue to look for opportunities to match current and potential donors/providers with recipients in order to enhance the dialogue between the donor community and recipient countries and to further the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

18. The Committee, including through the Executive Directorate, will intensify cooperation with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations with a view to enhancing Member States' capacity to fully implement resolution 1373 (2001) and to facilitating the provision of technical assistance.

19. The Committee, with the contribution of the Executive Directorate, and in close cooperation, as appropriate, with the support office of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and relevant entities, as well as with other bilateral and regional assistance providers, will make an assessment of technical assistance needs with a view to exploring ways of facilitating the provision of assistance to relevant Member States.

C. Maintaining dialogue with States on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005)

20. The Committee will continue to encourage States that have not yet submitted a report on their implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) to do so.

21. On the basis of the reports received from States and the information gathered during its on-site visits, the Committee will pursue discussions to explore the needs of States for technical assistance in implementing resolution 1624 (2005) and facilitate the provision of such assistance, as appropriate.

D. Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

22. On the basis of the Executive Directorate's participation in the activities of the Task Force, the Committee will continue to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

23. The Executive Directorate will brief the Committee, on a regular basis, on its activities within the framework of its participation with the Task Force.

24. The Committee will continue its discussions on issues related to the implementation of the Global Strategy.

III. Other

25. The Committee, in close consultation with the Executive Directorate and the Secretariat, will consider possible ways of streamlining its working methods.

26. The Committee will continue its cooperation and dialogue with relevant international and regional organizations on its counter-terrorism endeavours.

27. By the end of June 2010, the Committee will formulate and agree on an updated work programme for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2010.

Appendix

Work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2010

I. Introduction

1. The work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2010 has been prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of the report of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on its revitalization (S/2004/124) and takes into account the work programme of the Committee for the same period. It also takes into account the Security Council's interim review of the work of the Executive Directorate and the report of the Committee to the Council (S/2009/289).

2. The Executive Directorate will continue to help the Committee to achieve its objectives in the areas defined in the Committee's work programme; to report regularly to the Committee on its work, including in its semi-annual report; and to respond to any additional requests made during the reporting period.

II. Monitoring and promoting implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)

3. The Executive Directorate will submit to the subcommittees the outstanding files of Member States, including cover notes, draft letters and preliminary implementation assessments, for consideration and further submission to the Committee as part of its ongoing stocktaking process. The Executive Directorate will also continue to hold meetings with Member States in order to discuss issues relating to the preliminary implementation assessments, the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and technical assistance.

4. In close cooperation with the relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and on behalf of the Committee, the Executive Directorate will prepare and conduct visits to up to five Member States, with their consent, as approved by the Committee. It will also continue to update the Committee on a regular basis regarding follow-up to its previous visits to Member States.

5. The Executive Directorate will further enhance its cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies, including the Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and the Expert Group of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), as well as with various international, regional and subregional organizations, including in the context of the Committee's visits to Member States. In this context, the Executive Directorate will further extend promotion of the common strategy on the submission of responses by States jointly developed with the Monitoring Team and the Expert Group.

6. During the reporting period, the Executive Directorate, acting together with donors and other relevant partner organizations, will facilitate a follow-up regional workshop for police officers and prosecutors in South Asia on effectively countering terrorism. The workshop, which will be held in Sri Lanka, will address in detail the

shortcomings for the region which were identified during the initial workshop held in Bangladesh in November 2009.

7. Under the guidance of the Committee, the Executive Directorate will participate actively in, and support, all relevant activities under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including through active involvement in the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism Initiative of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

8. The Executive Directorate will assist the Committee in its consideration of the modalities and format of a special meeting of the Committee with international, regional and subregional organizations and of a special meeting open to the wider membership and regional organizations aimed at reviewing global efforts to implement resolution 1373 (2001). The Executive Directorate will make concrete recommendations to the Committee in this regard.

9. The Executive Directorate will assist the Committee in its consideration of the modalities and format of a seminar that would bring together Member State practitioners in an area relevant to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

10. The Executive Directorate will work on the preparations for a workshop on East African border control capacity-building aimed at, inter alia, identifying relevant challenges and appropriate solutions; sharing international good codes, practices and standards; and exchanging information among donors active in East Africa. During the workshop, the Executive Directorate will pursue a constructive dialogue with the relevant stakeholders, including the three main partners in the pilot project (Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania), international and regional organizations, potential donors, and relevant United Nations offices.

III. Facilitating the delivery of technical assistance to States

11. The Executive Directorate will continue to promote its revised strategy for facilitating the delivery of technical assistance to States by strengthening its relations with bilateral and multilateral donors through, inter alia, close engagement with the Counter-Terrorism Action Group of the Group of Eight and the European Union. It will also assist the Committee in its assessment of technical assistance needs aimed at exploring ways of more effectively facilitating technical assistance to relevant Member States.

12. The Executive Directorate will maintain and regularly update its database of information on all its referrals; its directory of detailed profiles of donors and providers of technical assistance; and its database of best practices.

IV. Human rights and implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005)

13. In accordance with the Committee's policy guidance on human rights, the Executive Directorate will continue to take into account the human rights aspects of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). This work will include contributing relevant information for inclusion in the preliminary implementation assessments; ensuring attention to relevant human rights issues in the planning and

conduct of country visits, including relevant information in visit reports; and promoting a consistent approach to human rights issues in all Executive Directorate activities. The Executive Directorate will continue to liaise with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism, and other human rights entities, as appropriate. It will also deepen its analytical framework through continued participation in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Working Group on Protecting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism.

14. The Executive Directorate will continue to include the issue of implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) in its dialogue with States and will actively encourage those States that have not yet submitted a report on their implementation of the resolution to do so. The Executive Directorate will introduce a thematic discussion on resolution 1624 (2005) at a Committee meeting, reflecting on possible approaches to promoting more effective implementation of the resolution and facilitating technical assistance, as appropriate.

V. Information and Administration Office

15. The Executive Directorate will promote an active communications strategy for facilitating better understanding of the work of the United Nations, the Committee and the Executive Directorate in the field of counter-terrorism.

16. The Executive Directorate will consider ways of reorganizing the Committee's website to simplify its presentation and make design and content changes in all six official languages with a view to ensuring parity of content and currency of information. Committee press kits will continue to be updated and distributed in hard copy and electronic format, as needed.

17. The Executive Directorate will ensure that all documentation submitted to the Committee is accurate, consistent and distributed in an effective and timely manner. To that end, the Information and Administration Office will use the recently established secure online document tracking and distribution system on the Committee website to circulate Executive Directorate materials to Committee members and to the Secretariat.

18. The Executive Directorate will continue to upgrade the database and computer systems of the Executive Directorate, improve access for staff of the Monitoring Team and the Expert Group, work to provide access to the staff of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and consider giving access to the staff of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Sharing of database information promotes greater efficiency and effectiveness in common work, better integrates implementation of separate mandates, and helps avoid duplication of effort.

19. The Executive Directorate will fill its two new professional staff positions and address all recurring staff vacancies. It will allocate resources for the Executive Directorate to sponsor its own workshops, using four criteria: the workshops should (a) help implement specific aspects of resolution 1373 (2001); (b) play a catalytic role in stimulating follow-up workshops; (c) support workshops that otherwise would not have been held; and (d), have at least one or more donors or providers

who will cover at least half the cost. Executive Directorate resources will also be allocated to preparations for the two special meetings of the Committee and assist partner international, regional and subregional organizations on an ad hoc basis to participate in its work. The Executive Directorate will also prepare its 2011 budget for submission to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

United Nations S/2010/90

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 March 2010

Original: English

Letter dated 16 February 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write to you in reference to document S/2010/10 dated 21 January 2010 concerning matters of which the Security Council is seized and the stage reached in their consideration. I have the honour to inform you that Austria requests the retention of the following items listed in paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned document on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized:

77. Protection of United Nations personnel, associated personnel and humanitarian personnel in conflict zones.

78. General issues relating to sanctions.

83. Strengthening international law: rule of law and maintenance of international peace and security.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Thomas **Mayr-Harting**
Ambassador

10-25471 (E) 030310

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